GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4901
ANSWERED ON:31.03.2017
Adulteration in Honey
Patel Shri Devji Mansingram

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 85 percent honey available in the domestic market is adulterated with corn syrup imported from China or locally available 'invert sugar' or liquid glucose;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against the brands selling such types of honey;

(c) whether Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) content in domestic honey is more than the international norms; and

(d) the details of the available honey brands failing in comparative test, conducted regarding pollen as per the Government prescribed norms regarding different types of unifloral honey in the year 2014 along with the action taken against these brands?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) & (b): Implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. Regular surveillance, monitoring and inspection are undertaken by State/UT Governments under FSS Act, 2006 to check compliance of the related Rules and Regulations. Random Samples of food items are drawn by the State Food Safety Officers and sent to laboratories recognised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for analysis. In cases, where samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the Act and the Regulations thereunder, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006. However, no specific information with regard to percentage of samples of honey found to be adulterated is maintained centrally by FSSAI.
(c): As per standards of Honey in sub-regulation 2.8.3 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) regulations, 2011, HMF (hydroxymethyl furfural) content should not be more than 80 mg/kg. International standards i.e. Codex Standard (F-1) prescribes that the hydroxymethyl furfural content of honey after processing and/or blending should not be more than 40 mg/kg. However, in case of honey of declared origin from countries or regions with tropical ambient temperatures, and blends of these honeys, the HMF content should not be more than 80 mg/kg." As India is a tropical country, the HMF content is at par with international standards.
(d): Details of such a comparative study is not maintained centrally by FSSAI.
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